

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08568 080357Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
XMB-02 OPIC-03 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
/148 W

-----009071 081423Z /43

R 071715Z OCT 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1740

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT

SUBJECT: GATT WORKING PARTY ON AUSTRALIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA
(PATRCRA)

SUMMARY: SUBJECT WP UNABLE AGREE ON GATT COMPATIBILITY PATRCRA
AND ON GATT REQUIREMENT FOR BIENNIAL REPORTING. DISAGREEMENT ON
REPORTING REQUIREMENT MAY COME UP IN NEXT GATT COUNCIL. END
SUMMARY.

1. WP MET OCT 6 IN SHORT HALF-DAY SESSION TO CONSIDER GATT
COMPATIBILITY OF FREE TRADE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
AND AUSTRALIA (PATCRA). AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE ARGUED THAT
AGREEMENT IS CONTINUATION OF FREE TREATMENT TRADITIONALLY
ACCORDED PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOODS IN AUSTRALIAN MARKET, THAT
SUBSTANTIAL TWO-WAY TRADE IS FREE AND THAT THE AGREEMENT
THEREFORE MEETS THE CRITERIA OF ARTICLE XXIV. HE ALSO NOTED THAT
AUSTRALIA HAS NOT ASKED FOR REVERSE PREFERENCES FROM PAPUA
NEW GUINEA, DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO AND, IN ANY CASE, THAT
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08568 080357Z

ARTICLE XXIV DOES NOT DEMAND REVERSE PREFERENCES BUT ONLY THE
SUBSTANTIAL PART OF TWO-WAY TRADE BE FREE. NEW ZEALAND AND
JAMAICA SUPPORTED AUSTRALIAN COMMENTS.

2. ALL SPEAKERS SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF PATCRA
BUT CANADA AND JAPAN QUESTION IF AGREEMENT MET CRITERIA OF
ARTICLE XXIV. WE MADE LOW-KEY STATEMENT AS PER REFTTEL.

3. IN RESPONSE TO US CALL FOR BIENNIAL REPORTING, SECOND-
ED BY JAPAN AND CANADA, AUSTRALIAN DEL ARGUED SINCE AGREEMENT
MET ARTICLE XXIV CRITERIA, THAT THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT TO
REPORT. CHAIRMAN THEN ASKED GATT SECRETARIAT TO READ OUT
CONTRACTING PARTIES DECISION SPECIFYING REPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR
FREE TRADE ARRANGEMENTS (GATT DOCUMENT SR.27/12), BUT AUSTRALIAN
DEL REFUSED TO BUDGE. MEANWHILE, EC DEL, GRINNING FROM EAR
TO EAR, WAS SILENTLY VISUALIZING INNUMERABLE POSSIBILITIES FOR
AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. CHAIRMAN THEN ADJOURNED MEETING
IN HOPE THAT AUSTRALIAN DEL COULD OBTAIN MORE FLEXIBLE INSTR-
UCTIONS.

4. WHEN WP CONVENED NEXT DAY, AUSTRALIAN DEL HAD MOVED TO POINT
OF AGREEING TO SUBMIT ONE REPORT WITHIN TWO YEARS BUT NOT ON A
REGULAR BASIS THEREAFTER. WE AND OTHERS CONTINUED TO ARGUE THAT
CP DECISION ESTABLISHED CLEAR REQUIREMENT FOR BIENNIAL REPORTING.
WP REPORT REFLECTS THIS DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS AND INDICATES THAT
SOME PARTIES MAY WISH TO REVERT TO THE MATTER AT THE NEXT
GATT COUNCIL.

5. COMMENT: AUSTRALIAN DEL ADMITTED TO US PRIVATELY THAT
EC COULD USE SAME ARGUMENT TO AVOID BIENNIAL REPORTING IF
AUSTRALIA CONTINUES ON THIS COURSE. WE URGED HIM TO GET CANBERRA
TO QUIETLY AGREE TO BIENNIAL REPORTING SINCE AUSTRALIA IS
UNLIKELY TO OBTAIN COUNCIL CONSENSUS TO ASK FOR REVERSAL
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 08568 080357Z

OF EARLIER CP DECISION. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 07-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: GATT WORKING PARTY ON AUSTRALIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PATRCRA) SUMMARY: SUBJECT WP UNABLE AGREE ON GATT
COMPATIB
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
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